

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the specification.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors of a minor clerical nature. Incorrect figure reference numerals which appear on page 8 of the specification as originally filed have been corrected to provide the correct numerals. Support for the amendments to the reference numerals is provided by the drawings as originally filed. In addition, the paragraphs have been numbered in accordance with current patent practice.

In order to reduce the chances for erroneous entry of the amendments to the specification, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b), Applicants provide herewith a substitute specification for entry into the application file. Applicants are also providing a markup version showing the changes made compared to the application as originally filed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b)(1), Applicants' Agent provides the following statement that no new matter has been added:

Statement

The undersigned Agent states under 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b)(1) that the substitute specification submitted herewith includes no new matter.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-21 have been amended to place the claims in conformance with U.S. patent practice, and to correct several minor typographical errors. Claims 4, 10, and 14 have been amended to provide antecedent basis for the expressions in these claims. Support for the amendments is provided by the claims as originally filed.

III. Conclusion

Entry and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by any amendment herein.

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-21 remain pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

No fee should be due in connection with this communication. However, if any fee is due, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: May 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: substitute specification